



Applegate Valley Historical Society
15050 Hwy 238
CPO Box 3122
Applegate, Oregon 97530



July 2000 NEWSLETTER

Hope this finds everyone having an eventful Summer.

Some of the things that have been or are going to be going on at and around the Museum are as follows: Bill Dunlap has been putting up the fence. It looks real nice. Good job Bill !!

We hosted the Jackson County Historical Museums Associations meeting on June 15. Thanks to Cathy Dunlap for the wonderful goodies. Everyone enjoyed them. We found out at this meeting that due to budget cuts, we JCHMA and the Southern Oregon Historical Society, will be losing Marjorie Edens. Her position has been redesigned within SOHS. Marjorie will be greatly missed as she attended almost all of the monthly meetings that the area historical societies held. She kept us up to date on all the things that were happening and all the things that we needed to do. We hope that she's enjoying her free time. THANKS MARJORIE FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE !!!!!

We still have lots of Quilt raffle tickets. They sell for: \$1.00 for 1 or \$5.00 for 6. Need not be present to win. The drawing will be at our annual meeting on November 18, 2000.

Our next meeting will be on July 15, 2000 at 10 AM at the museum. Bring your chair with you.

The SOHS will be holding their summer program on July 20, 2000 at 2:00 PM. It will start at the Applegate Library then move to the Applegate Valley Historical Society Museum. It will be on the TRAINS of the ROGUE VALLEY. Please pass the word along as this should be a very interesting subject for one and all.

See you the 15th at 10 AM at the museum with your chair.

Barbara Niedermeyer
AVHS Sec/Tres.



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WAY BACK WHEN

ETHEL WEST

If you live to be an Octogenarian at some time in those 80+ years you could be lucky enough to meet a gracious lady of Ethel West's character, but they will be few. We attended Ethel's services lately to celebrate her life and say a silent goodbye. How many people do you know who have been married 71 years?

There was a sparkle to Ethel that seemed to me was always there. She was a pretty lady with a ready smile that just lit up her whole countenance and made us feel good all over.

If you went to a Grange-sponsored doing at Upper Applegate and hoped to see Ethel, you looked in the kitchen, where the white-aproned people were working to feed the crowd. This was just one facet of her busy life.

What she did beyond Grange duties would fill a book, but there's one skill she had that people were often unaware of because she never made anything of it. It was as if it just sort of happened.

When "Master Gardeners" was quite new they were going to have a day of "show and tell" at Expo, and they asked our Applegate Valley Garden Club to do a booth or make a display. Ethel was a member, of course, but had not attended as often since they'd moved to Jacksonville. Our membership had a lot of "newcomers" like people who had only lived here ten or fifteen years and "old-timers" were few. We were discussing what to have for our display, the "how to" and the "who to" for our space when someone suggested we were in dire need of a backdrop. Who could we hire for that job? The conversation had come to a standstill when I suggested we had a skilled lady in our membership who might do this for us. Only a few people present knew Ethel West, so I was appointed to contact her to see if she still did things of that sort.

It was always a pleasure to visit Fred and Ethel's home, so away I went to Jacksonville. My greeting was that of a long-lost cousin you might say. Ethel was baking cookies for a meeting and Fred was working out back. A quilted quilt was nearly finished in one end of the living room. Someone was going to get an heirloom as a present.

Ethel poured coffee and Fred came in for cookies and coffee. After some catching up on family news, I asked Ethel if she could work this Garden Club display thing into her busy schedule. She never batted an eye and immediately began planning a course of action. First, she needed an old white bedsheet. Then I went with her to a craft store where she bought poster paint in powder form in one-pint containers- the three primary

colors, and brown. We stopped at a grocery store for a large box of detergent- white. This was news to me! They say you learn something new every day. I was getting a week's worth of learning in one day.

Back at the West's home we discussed a format for this backdrop. The wheels were turning in Ethel's head and she was far ahead of me. I'd never heard of a grid for structure. I was "out in left field," so I told her I'd furnish the sheet and she began plotting her painting. She pulled a scene of Applegate Valley hills out of her head and put it on paper. Then she drew a garden in the foreground. It had a gate, of course, and wouldn't you know a robin was perched on the gatepost. It was getting late and I had to go, but Ethel kept right on working on and her enthusiasm for this task was truly heartening.

In the end, Fred got some boards together for a frame. He brought tools and a ladder and put this together at the Expo building in nothing flat. He stretched the 90-inch X 108-inch "painting" with the aid of several innocent bystanders to get it up and hold it square and stable. Unbelievable! It was beautiful!

M.K. Applegatia

This is the story for July. I know it's late but felt you should be able to read it just the same. Sorry; Barbara

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